



WEST BOYLSTON

Worcester County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The gray granite shell of an old church stands on a grass covered point jutting into the Wachusett Reservoir off Route 12 here, like a tombstone marking the homes, mills, schools and people who once lived where the dark waters of the Wachusett Reservoir now lie.

West Boylston, incorporated in 1808, and abutting Worcester, flourished through the 19th century as an industrial center, with cotton mills, a scythe factory and boot finishing shops. In 1896, the Metropolitan District Commission chose the south branch of the Nashua River as the storage site

for Boston's water supply and the fate of West Boylston, and several other towns, was changed forever.

In 1897, the MDC evicted 1,700 West Boylstonites who lived near the town's center and began razing 6 mills, 8 schools, 4 churches, one hotel and 360 homes to prepare for the 65 billion gallon reservoir. The entire Beaman Graveyard was moved to the center of town. Buildings, some still in use today, were dragged through the streets. The old stone Baptist Church, built in 1892 and recently restored by the West Boylston Historical Commission is all of the old center that remains in its original place.

Away from Route 12, West Boylston is dotted with well-kept sub-divisions. Most of West Boylston's residents work in Worcester or Worcester County, but I-190 passes through town giving easy access to Routes 9, 20, I-90 and I-495 and Boston is just 40 miles away. Being a suburb of Worcester means easy access to the city's cultural and commercial features.

Some town residents say that West Boylston is the best of both worlds because it is a non-urban environment just a stone's throw from the city. The excellent school system, under a school choice program, has students from other communities enrolled from kindergarten through grade 12.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Central Massachusetts, bordered by Worcester and Shrewsbury on the south, Holden on the west, Sterling on the north, and Boylston and the Wachusett Reservoir on the east. West Boylston is about 7 miles north of Worcester, 18 miles south of Fitchburg, 41 miles west of Boston, and 185 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 13.85 sq. miles

Land Area: 12.90 sq. miles

Population: 6,611

Density: 512 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Clinton Station)

Normal temperature in January.....23.4°F

Normal temperature in July.....71.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Worcester North, Sterling, Clinton

Regional Planning Agency

Central Massachusetts

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Worcester



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 835-6091

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Executive Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1808

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%
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Total Registered 3,835

Democrats 779 20.3 % Republicans 691 18.0 % Other parties 1 0.0 % Unenrolled Voters 2,364 61.6 %

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: West Boylston town, Worcester County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	7,481	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	7,481	100.0
Male.....	4,232	56.6	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	357	4.8
Female.....	3,249	43.4	Mexican.....	15	0.2
Under 5 years.....	325	4.3	Puerto Rican.....	271	3.6
5 to 9 years.....	482	6.4	Cuban.....	2	-
10 to 14 years.....	516	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	69	0.9
15 to 19 years.....	463	6.2	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	7,124	95.2
20 to 24 years.....	450	6.0	White alone.....	6,630	88.6
25 to 34 years.....	1,047	14.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,399	18.7	Total population.....	7,481	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,074	14.4	In households.....	6,174	82.5
55 to 59 years.....	379	5.1	Householder.....	2,413	32.3
60 to 64 years.....	245	3.3	Spouse.....	1,459	19.5
65 to 74 years.....	510	6.8	Child.....	1,941	25.9
75 to 84 years.....	452	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	1,490	19.9
85 years and over.....	139	1.9	Other relatives.....	165	2.2
Median age (years).....	38.4	(X)	Under 18 years.....	55	0.7
18 years and over.....	5,883	78.6	Nonrelatives.....	196	2.6
Male.....	3,421	45.7	Unmarried partner.....	103	1.4
Female.....	2,462	32.9	In group quarters.....	1,307	17.5
21 years and over.....	5,593	74.8	Institutionalized population.....	1,298	17.4
62 years and over.....	1,256	16.8	Noninstitutionalized population.....	9	0.1
65 years and over.....	1,101	14.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	462	6.2	Total households.....	2,413	100.0
Female.....	639	8.5	Family households (families).....	1,746	72.4
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	794	32.9
One race.....	7,378	98.6	Married-couple family.....	1,459	60.5
White.....	6,855	91.6	With own children under 18 years.....	660	27.4
Black or African American.....	399	5.3	Female householder, no husband present.....	215	8.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	12	0.2	With own children under 18 years.....	104	4.3
Asian.....	64	0.9	Nonfamily households.....	667	27.6
Asian Indian.....	12	0.2	Householder living alone.....	574	23.8
Chinese.....	16	0.2	Householder 65 years and over.....	267	11.1
Filipino.....	4	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	843	34.9
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	719	29.8
Korean.....	11	0.1	Average household size.....	2.56	(X)
Vietnamese.....	6	0.1	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Other Asian ¹	14	0.2	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	2,458	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,413	98.2
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	45	1.8
Samoan.....	1	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	4	0.2
Some other race.....	47	0.6	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	103	1.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.2	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races: ³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,413	100.0
White.....	6,949	92.9	Owner-occupied housing units.....	1,963	81.4
Black or African American.....	416	5.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	450	18.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	33	0.4	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.71	(X)
Asian.....	72	1.0	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.91	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	5	0.1			
Some other race.....	112	1.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 62

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Located in the Worcester area, which has three major cross-state highways: the Worcester Turnpike (Route 9), Route 20, and the Massachusetts Turnpike. I-495 borders to the east, I-190 links to the Fitchburg-Leominster area, I-84 and I-395 connect to Connecticut and points south. The region is well connected by rail and highway to the ports, airports, and intermodal facilities of Boston and Providence.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Routes 12, 110, and 140, and Interstate Route 190 running N-S between Leominster and Worcester.

Rail

Passenger rail service to Boston, Springfield, Providence, and all other points on the Amtrak network is available through neighboring Worcester. The Springfield Terminal Railway provides freight rail service. Contact number: (508) 663-1073

Bus

West Boylston is a member of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), which provides fixed route service between West Boylston and Worcester. The WRTA also offers paratransit services to the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Worcester Municipal Airport, a Primary Commercial (PR) facility with scheduled passenger service, is easily accessible. It has 2 asphalt runways 5,500' and 6,999' long. Instrument approaches available: Precision and non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

(American Association of Museums)

None

MUSEUMS

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Oakdale Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.